



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 23, 2004

**To:** School Superintendents

**From:** Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections

**Subject:** FILING REQUIREMENTS UNDER MICHIGAN'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT

School board candidates and groups that support or oppose millage issues and bonding proposals are required to comply with Michigan's Campaign Finance Act. Your assistance is needed to ensure that the candidates and millage issue groups that participate in the elections receive information on the requirements of the Act.

**Special note to Intermediate School Districts: If your school board is not elected at a popular election, your school board candidates are not required to comply with the provisions of the Campaign Finance Act. You may disregard the attached memos.**

**School Board Candidate Packets**

Please find enclosed a school board candidate informational memo. We would appreciate your assistance in reproducing and distributing the informational memo as needed. We recommend that you give the memo to each school board candidate who files for office in your district.

**Filing Requirements**

Candidates who seek school board positions in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,401 or more are subject to the filing requirements of the Act.

Candidates who seek school board positions in a school district with a pupil enrollment count of 2,400 or less are not subject to the filing requirements of the Act as long as they do not spend or receive in excess of \$1,000.00 for the election.

All candidates are required to keep records of their campaign expenses and include an identifier on campaign material. In addition, candidates are prohibited from accepting corporate contributions or contributions from a labor organization.

Given the above, a school board candidate in your district is required to file under Michigan's Campaign Finance Act if:

- 1.) your school district has a pupil enrollment count of 2,401 or more; or
- 2.) your school district has a pupil enrollment count of 2,400 or less and the candidate spends or receives in excess of \$1,000.00 for the election.

### **Millage Issue Groups**

A group that supports or opposes the qualification or passage of a millage issue or bonding proposal must form and register a Ballot Question Committee under the Campaign Finance Act within 10 days after it receives or spends \$500.00 or more (certain exemptions apply). A "group" is defined as two or more individuals who act jointly, an association, a business or any other type of organization. If a group that supports or opposes a local millage issue contacts you, your assistance in directing the groups to the local county clerk for filing information would be appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Evelyn Quiroga at the address or phone listed below.

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